

REMARKS

The applicant believes that the specific arrangement of the lighting means defined in both independent claims 1 and 7 cannot be found anywhere in Freeman or Sokal, cited in the Final Action dated November 9, 2000, nor other references such as Fujizu or Ishikawa cited in the previous Office Action dated June 2, 2000, and therefore they are not anticipated or obvious in light of the cited art.

In particular, the arrangement of lighting means defined in both claims 1 and 7 is not disclosed either in Freeman or any other reference. As defined in claim 1 of the present invention, the lighting means is arranged to illuminate a user. Claim 7 further defines that the said video camera and said lighting means are directed toward the same area, and said display means being viewable from said same area.

The directional arrangement of the lighting means is very important in a video conference terminal. Without proper arrangement of the lighting means, the users cannot enjoy the advantage the video conference communications has over a conventional voice-only communication. In the present invention, the lighting means is arranged to be directed to the user, exclusively. Therefore it would be much easier to acquire an optimum lighting effect of the video conference by adjusting the lighting means, either automatically or manually.

Freeman et al. does not disclose the above arrangement of lighting means, but only simply mentions "a fiberglass shell having a lighting and ventilation system" (col. 5, line 6). Here, the lighting refers to that for illuminating the whole telephone booth, not only the user. The specific feature of the present invention is also not found in any of the other cited references. For example, Fujizu (JP402119390), which was cited by the Examiner in the first Office Action dated June 2, 2000 in the parent application, only generally discloses "a lighting body of the lighting section 2 of the entire front face except a display section 10" (see its abstract and Fig. 2), but does not disclose the

specific distinguishing feature of the lighting means arrangement of the present invention.

Therefore, with the distinguishing feature of the arrangement of the lighting means, claims 1 and 7 are not anticipated by any cited reference, including Freeman, and cannot be obviously conceived from a combination of the cited references. Therefore, claims 1 and 7 are patentable.

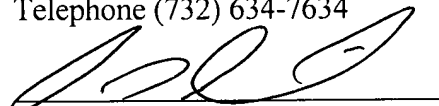
At least for the same reason, claims 2-6 and 8-10, which are dependent to claims 1 and 7, respectively, are also patentable. In addition, claim 4 further defines that the lighting means is arranged below the monitor. This may avoid the lighting from being directed to a user's eyes when he/she is looking at the monitor during the conference.

In view of the above, applicant believes that the present invention as defined in claims 1-10 as amended herewith in this CPA application, are patentable over Freeman, Sokal, Fujizu, Ishikawa or their various combinations, as cited by the Examiner. Reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested. The Commissioner is authorized to deduct any additional fees believed due for this CPA application from our Deposit Account No. 11-0223.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, in a postage prepaid envelope, addressed to Box CPA, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on January 11, 2001.

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Dated January 11, 2001 _____

Print Name Michael R. Gilman _____